Contribution of Gandhi Towards Odisha

"If your want to serve poor, then serve Odisha". - M.K Gandhi.

"Odisha is the epitome of poverty" - M.K. Gandhi

"Odisha is the land of sorrow and tears" - M.K Gandhi.

Before Gandhian Era specially during moderate phase of congress Odisha had no concern in nation level. Even no one took the name of Odhisha though various source stated that 1st freedom struggle started in odisha. The land "veda now ruined by colonial rule and extreme poverty throw indra into a corner. But After Gandhian intervation Odisha show her proactiveness in national politics.

1918, 1919 indra suffered wrathly from drought and blood The calamities showed the naked

picture of odisha. Gandhi's disciple "Jakkar Bapa" came to odisha for campaign. By request of Gandhi "Jakkar Bapa" collected 50000 rupees from Gujarat and distributed in affected area.

In 1921 Gandhi came to odisha firstly. which odisha had no concern in congress leader, Gandhian interview made him duty. Evening in odisha not less than a monastry, he express his words after odisha visit.

Gandhiji not only a political leader, but also fought against casteism, social oppression, religious hatred, superstition, economic exploitation, women's emancipation, Harijan upliftment and more, According to Einstein,

"A man in bone and flesh can't do had Gandhiji Do". Modern researcher also didn't able to understand Gandhi's weapon. when, Odisha suffered in poverty Gandhi dreamed to made Odisha "The Khadi Store of India". At the instance of Gandhi Jivaramji Kalyanji Kothari contributed one lakh rupees to "Gandhi seva Sangh for Khadi work".

Gandhi's political influence in

odisha was in very large extend. Non-Cooperation movement, ~~[illegible]~~ swadeshi movement and other ideas of Gandhi affected India largely. Telugu-odia conflict at peak level and there was no special state for odiyas. Gandhi, the one man army, stated that

"Before the sunrise all conflict must had to be solved" and he proved his words. for special provi he argued in yearly INC conferen repeatedly and in round table conference also we claimed for it.

Gopandhu das was a great humanitarian leader of odisha who worked with Gandhi for long years. During flood campaign Gandhi arranged help from national level and supported him.

As moderate leaders during ~~[illegible]~~ post gandhian era totally ~~[illegible]~~ ignored odisha, Madhusudan das established 'Utkal Conference' in 1903. During Gandhi Harijan upliftment programme, Madhu babu worked with him. untochables are not allowed to Raghunath temple, sakhi gopal temple, Balianta temple for worship, Gandhi addressed a meeting and said that,

"In these temples, there are no good; where untouchables are not allowed". a great revolution came in odisha.

In sathigopal temple, no free access provision for untouchables. but after Gandhi intervention this tradition also ended.

Womens were also approached towards national movement after gandhi visit. Malati Devi, Rama Devi were the prominent women leaders participated in national movement. Malati Choudhury also participated proactively. Gandhi worked for women emancipation and end to purdah system.

Gandhi asked Rabindranath tagore to write about the great heritage of odisha in his literature. C.F Andrew came to odisha after Gandhis advise for couple of months to help in flood affected people. Visweswaraya a prominent and most salaried engeneers of India who charged 10,000/- per day but worked in odisha without any pie only for Gandhi.

Iswarlal vyas and his wife Parvatibai, established Ashram in Sonepur, Balasore and Jeevanramji Kalyanji Kothari and his wife sacrificed

all their property for odisha and made ashram at BHADRAK, who were the best disciples of Gandhi.

Way forward

Gandhi did more for odisha during his limited time, he crossed among length and breadth of odisha mostly. his contributions helped odisha in follows

(i) Social upliftment
(ii) Economic development
(iii) upliftment of untouchables.
(iv) spreading of equality.
(v) special providence of odia's
(vi) women emancipation and eradication of purdah system.
(vii) Political activeness (Gopabandhu das, Madhusudan Das)
(viii) Khadi - boon of India - a great achievement for odishas hunger.

Gandhi always said that "the land utkal is dearest to me whole India".